

Codornices Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (CCWRAP)

Urban Creeks Council



Steelhead captured and measured as part of CCWRAP's fish trapping and identification efforts.

Award Amount

\$200,000

Watershed

Codornices Creek Watershed

County

Alameda County

CALFED Region

Bay Region

Legislative Districts

US Congress: 13

State Assembly: 15, 16, and 18

State Senate: 9 and 10

Purpose

Assess conditions on Codornices Creek and the potential for restoration of salmonid passage and habitat, improve water quality, and promote community outreach and watershed education.

Project Goals

- Assess Codornices Creek's habitat and habitat restoration potential for salmonid recovery, particularly steelhead.
- Assess barriers and unstable bank sites and determine solutions and costs.
- Conduct community outreach and watershed education.
- Develop the Codornices Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

This project is focused on restoring habitat conditions for steelhead in the Bay Area's Codornices Creek. Steelhead is a species of high concern to the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP). The ERP Plan states that a major factor limiting steelhead populations in urban streams is development, including water diversions and barriers such as diversion dams, high water temperatures, and other water quality impacts from urban runoff. This project is working to address barriers such as these and seeking collaborative and locally driven solutions to overcome them. The project is providing benefits to both the local community and the CALFED Program.

Project Overview

Codornices Creek begins near the western edge of Tilden Regional Park in the heavily urbanized hills of Berkeley and flows downhill nearly 7 miles before entering San Francisco Bay just north of the Golden Gate Fields racetrack. The upper reaches of the stream are in the backyards of homes. Much of the lower reaches was paved over during the 1940s but has been re-exposed in the past two decades.

Restoration efforts by groups such as the Urban Creeks Council, the Friends of Five Creeks, and the Live Oak Codornices Creek Neighborhood Association have dramatically improved the health of the creek, to the point that the creek now supports a population of steelhead. However, much more work and restoration are still needed before steelhead can move up and down the stream with any annual certainty. There are old hanging culverts that can block migrating steelhead, and there are streambanks that are sloughing sediment and filling pools, which is smothering the stream's rocky substrate.

This project represents a collaboration of several community groups to assess the condition of Codornices Creek and to interest local government and other community members in the welfare of the creek and its steelhead population. This project assesses the stream's habitat and habitat recovery potential, including unstable bank sites and the current barriers to migration. Water quality impairment is also being assessed. The Codornices Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan includes priority restoration actions to revitalize the creek. The project includes community outreach, watershed education, and a community monitoring program.



Volunteers conduct a depth survey along Codornices Creek.

Contact Information

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